**Steven Griffin Expertise Statement**

If I could say I know something well, I would say it is skiing. Of course I had to learn to ski, I wasn’t born an expert and even now I’m not one. I would say that my interest in skiing started at a very young age, specifically when I was about 5 years old and spent my winters sledding down the neighborhood hill with friends. I had seen movies or videos of people skiing and I essentially thought it was sledding standing up. How wrong I was. I had gone to my dad with questions and my brothers both had an interest as well. Funnily enough my cousin of the same age expressed the same interest. So the next winter we went up to New Hampshire and stayed in a hotel. Our parents took the four of us to Mount Cranmore, where we spent two days learning how to ski. It was difficult to learn and confusing at first, but eventually it just kind of got stuck in my brain and became simple. On the third day we finally went on a real trail and I loved it. In the following years, family friends of my parents built a log cabin within the White Mountains of New Hampshire. We always got invited up to go on skiing trips. Of course the more I practiced, the better I got. I went skiing upwards of ten times a year. What was great was every mountain offered something new. Every time I went skiing I had the desire to try something harder. It started off with the green trails (Green, Blue, Black Diamond, Double Black Diamond are the order of difficulty). Then I wanted to give the blues a try after I had some practice. This trend continued for years until I felt comfortable doing everything. Skiing in glades (woods) was my favorite thing to do and combined mostly all the skills of skiing as they could get extremely steep and icy. Along the way I had many people who were better than me (Uncles, friends, strangers) give me great advice on tricks and how to slightly improve myself. As with many things, I learned skiing through years of practice and help from many people. I’m not an expert, but I’m definitely better then when I started.